(ii) Regular partrolling is done by armed Forest Officials in the bird congregation areas.

(Hi) Strict vigilance is being maintained on the roadside eating houses through a newtwork of paid informers.

(iv) Appropriate publicity has been given to inform public to refrain from eating bird meat.

(v) Motivation campaign has been launched, amoung fishermen and other locals who depend on the lake for their livelihood, regarding role of birds in the ecosystem and their contribution to the fisheries resource.

(b) 'Matsyajivi Mahasangh', 'Matsyajivi Mahila Mahasangh', 'Wild Orissa' and 22 bird protection committees formed by local villagers around Chilka Lake are the organisations in the Non-Government sector that are actively involved in prevention of poaching of waterfowl in Chilka Lake.

Improvement in technical education

1144. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a recent policy shift or improvement in technical education;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether such changes have taken into account the rulings of the Supreme Court of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRI A): (a) to (c) As per the information furnished by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), they have recently taken policy decision on Centralised Admission Process in technical education system. AICTE has issued guidelines for Common Entrance Test for admission during the academic year 2004-05 to (i) MBA/PGDBA (equivalent programmes); (ii) MCA programmes; (iii) Degree Level Course in Engineering, Architecture/Planning and Pharmacy programmes. According to these

guidelines, for the year 2004-05, admissions shall be made either through an All India Common Entrance Test (s) or through State level tests. All India Tests shall be for those institutions, who were holding their own entrance tests earlier and admitting all their students or certain percentage of them on All India basis. States/UTs may conduct their own entrance test (s) for admission to above programmes within their States/UTs or join the All India Entrance Test. State level tests shall, however, be restricted to fill up seats from the students of their own States only. Management seats in private unaided self-financing institutions shall be filled through either of the Common Entrance Test or through a Common Entrance Test conducted by an approved agency (Including Association of all Colleges of a particular type in the State). The policy decision taken by AICTE is in pursuance of the Judgements delivered by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

Drop-out rates from school

1145. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE, DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the percentage of drop-out rates from school education, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): State-wise details regarding drop-out rates(percentage) at various stages of school education are given in the enclosed Statement:

Statement

*Drop-out rates at various stages of school education-2001-02**

State/UTs	Drop-out rates (Percentages)		
	Primary (I-V classes)	Elementary (I-VIII classes)	Secondary (I-X classes)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	43.03	63.09	70.12
Arunachal Pradesh	49.77	60.62	76.04
Assam	48.64	69.21	75.61